SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year – September 25, 1972

No 166

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

JAN 8
Copy 1973

A scene of daring feats: The highway 13 front

150 days and nights of stubborn fighting on the highway 13 front have proved highly fruitful for the armed forces and people of Eastern Nam Bo.

Their gains have gladdened the hearts of the entire people, who see them as another epic in the national history. In it, they displayed an incredible stamina and sense of purpose.

Never in the history of war and nowhere had the US imperialists used such a bomb tonnage as on the highway 13 and Quang Tri battlefronts. Everyday, jet fighter-bombers flew hundreds of strikes, and B.52s from 20 to 40 sorties in carpet bombings while tens of thousands of artillery shells of all sizes rained on these narrow strips of land each a few square miles in area.

It was a gruelling and prolonged test of strength. In this 5-month period, they wiped out over 28,000 enemy, mostly of the regular forces, wrote off the Saigon 5th Infantry Division regarded by the Americans as Thieu's "Big Red One" on the South Viet Nam battlefield, badly mauled the 21st and 18th Infantry Divisions, the 1st Airborne Brigade, and the 25th and 9th Infantry Divisions. As a result of those blows the enemy has been driven into a precarious position, our offensive posture enhanced and popular uprisings given a strong impetus.

After losses in manpower and war means and large breaches in their defence line close to the Cambodian border, the US-Saigon command has taken all necessary measures to hold An Loc and try to dislodge the PLAF from this pivotal sector.

Battlefield developments, however, have proved that the enemy, far from being able to make the PLAF budge an inch, has instead been tightly besieged at An Loc. The liberation fighters had hit hard at the enemy to the North, successively inflicted heavy casualties on him to the South, outflanked him and seized control of many important portions of the highway stretching from Thang Binh, Duc Vinh and Tan Khai to Chon Thanh and from Chon Thanh to a point near Bau Bang, deep South. This made possible deep and violent thrusts into many important enemy bases next door to Saigon. The attack on Lai Khe base took a toll of more than 400 enemy (Aug. 11), that on the Ben Cat – Bau Bang area was responsible for more than 200 enemy troops knocked out (Aug.12), the wipping out of over 500 enemy fleeing troops at Bau Bang seriously depleted the 25th Division's 49th Task Force (Aug.28) and a series of saper actions on enemy airfields and strategic logistic compounds at Long Binh, Bien Hoa, Thanh Tuy Ha and other places were equally destructive.

Meanwhile, the local people rose up and shattered big fragments of the enemy's coercive system in rural areas, striking a devastating blow at the enemy pacification program and aggravating the enemy defensive posture. The recent bloody rout of 2 task forces units of the 25th Inf. Div. and the 5th Ranger Group has clearly revealed the critical adverse plight in this sector, both in the front and in the rear.

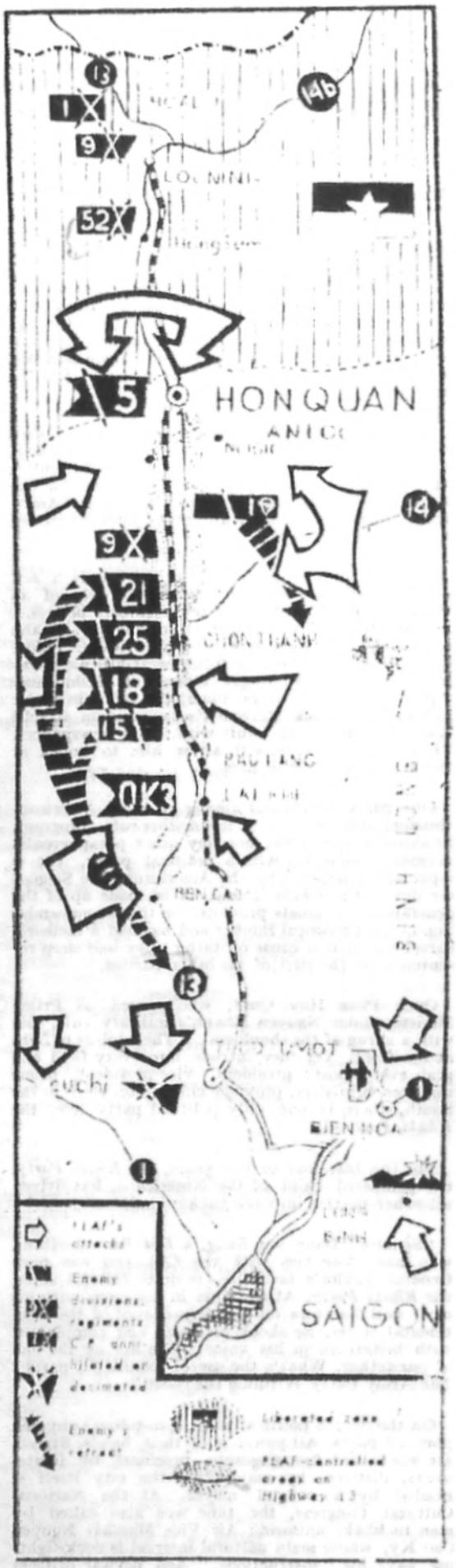
The highway 13 episode was also a remarkable proof of the PLAF resiliency in face of US air power, the Nixonian war hawks' main workhorse in joint actions with their mercenaries on this battlefield. Hundreds of B.52 strikes were mounted daily, dumping from 1,500 to 1,800 tons of bombs on a tiny stretch of land. Yet, US air force failed in its task, showed its impotence in face of the thick flak and versatile tactics of the PLAF.

Innumerable PLAF combat teams and units as well as many commanders and combatants of the PLAF, and people from all walks of life and of all nationalities evinced an extraordinary fortitude, a high sense of patriotism and of the "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" truism, a profound feeling of solidarity and firm confidence in final victory.

Memorable will be the exploits of unit H., known as a solid steel rampart, of batteries 8 and 9 of the Bien Hoa artillery battalion, and of many dug-in units at Thang Binh, Duc Vinh, Tau O and Xa Trach along highway 13 which struck fear into the hearts of the enemy. High-ranking US Saigon officers themselves had to acknowledge that the "Communist troops (PLAF) were always on the offensive and their will to fight was stronger than any military hardware."

WE rightly take pride in deeds the staunchness, loyalty and dauntlessness of Eastern Nam Bo, a land with a brilliant resistance record against the French colonialists in the past and against the US aggressors at present. Today, it is upholding its tradition and making signal contributions to the common effort to foil step by step Nixon's "Vietnamization."

There is no doubt that the people and armed forces on the highway 13 front will win still more dramatic successes, and live up to their nation-wide fame.



in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Continued)

7.— THE KHAKI PARTY

THANKS to solicitous care from the fortress-embassy, political parties have mushroomed in Saigon, like fungi on decaying wood. No less than 123 political parties and organizations are registered with the Ministry of the Interior and the City administration. Proconsul Bunker can indeed take pride in the fact that, quantitatively at least, Saigon "democracy" has outstripped American democracy, which can boast only two contending parties.

The *Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang* has split into three factions, with three headquarters. One under the thumb of Vu Hong Khanh, who had moved south after 1954; one controlled by Nguyen Hoa Hiep, and one, calling itself the "unified VNQDD" and having Nguyen Dinh Luong as its bellwether. Each faction claims to be the genuine VNQDD and of course disclaims all American subsidies and string-pulling.

The *Dai Viet* has also burst asunder: the Bac Ky (Northern) faction is under the sway of Dang Van Sung, the Trung Ky (Central) faction is led by Ha Thuc Ky, and the Nam Ky (Southern) coterie by Nguyen Ton Hoang. The Saigonese give the party as a whole the sobriquet of *Dai Vit*, which means Great Hoax.

The *Dan Xa* is an avatar of the "Labour and Personalism" organization set up by Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Nhu. Its aim is to restore the Ngo dynasty, and it maintains close relations, political and financial, with Thieu and other Saigon generals, and also with CIA chieftains responsible for the murder of Diem and Nhu.

The list could be indefinitely prolonged: *Phuc Viet, Cach Mang Nhan Dan, Viet Nam Hung Quoc Dang, Cong Hoa Dai Chung, Doan Ket*, etc., not counting the *Mat Tran Cuu Nguy Dan Toc* (Front for National Salvation) hastily rigged up by the Americans in an effort to rally all anti-Communist parties behind Thieu.

Many of those "parties" can boast only a few dozen members. Some are possessed only of an "Executive Committee" of ten members or less, a headquarters and an emblem, all serving the sole aim of getting hand-outs from the Americans. Before attempting to recruit any follower at all, a "party leader" should first get himself a fashionable "politician's suit" from Adam, the tailor in vogue in Saigon, a black Mercedes sedan, and an attaché case which he would stuff with... old newspapers. These accoutrements will allow him to knock at Bunker's door, hat in hand.

One party stands out among all those American-financed organizations. It has neither rules, program, headquarters, emblem nor any other paraphernalia normally connected with a political party, yet is especially pampered by the Americans. The Saigonese dub it the *Khaki Party*. It is made up of the generals and colonels promoted on the recommendation of the proconsul Bunker and has had a meteoric career which is a cause of bitter envy and deep resentment on the part of the other parties.

Once Phan Huy Quat, who served as Prime Minister under Nguyen Khanh's military rule, said with a shrug of the shoulders: "Their job is to fight at the front. Yet they intrude into every field and grab every post: president, vice-president, prime minister, ministers, province chiefs, etc. Here in the South, there is one only political party left, the *Khaki Party.*"

For the last four or five years, the *Khaki Party*, the pampered child of the Americans, has driven all other parties into the background.

"Senator" Dang Van Sung, a *Dai Viet* chieftain, who has close ties with the CIA and was once General Taylor's favourite, is quite spiteful about the *Khaki Party*. At a dinner in company with his close collaborators on the terrace-roof of the Continental Hotel, he shook his head and complained with bitterness in his voice: "We are at the end of our tether. What's the use of founding a party? The Army Party is ruling the roost."

On the Saigon political stage, gun-toting armymen play all parts. All power is in their hands. Streets are controlled by sergeants, precincts by lieutenants, districts by majors and the city itself is headed by a colonel mayor. At the National Cultural Congress, the tune was also called by men in khaki uniform: Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, whose main cultural interest is cock-fighting, gave his "instructions," and psywar officers delivered lengthy speeches in praise of "literacy" works by Paratroops Captain Nguyen Vu, and so on and so forth.

Things are even more obvious in the economic field. The *Khaki Party* controls all national resources. Everything is in the hands of generals, ex-generals, and their wives, concubines, relatives and friends: chemical industry (Dosuki and C° in Dong Khanh boulevard, owned by Generals (ret.) Don, Xuan, Kim, Thuan); import-export trade (with yearly imports worth over 500 million US dollars), banking (Ex-Defence Minister Nguyen Huu Co is now the owner of a big bank)... Every source of wealth and profits is controlled by them: wood and forest products in the Central Highlands, cinnamon bark and pine resin in Quang Nam and Lam Dong, fish, brine and other sea products in Phan Thiet and Phu Quoc, even the frozen-shrimp trade at Vung Tau. The real-estate business is also quite firmly in the hands of khaki-clad bigwigs: high-rise buildings in Saigon, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, Da Nang, luxurious hotels and villas, complete with tennis-courts and swimming-pools, in Cong Ly and Hai Ba Trung boulevards, etc.

Lesser figures in the *Khaki Party* control such profitable businesses as snack-bars, brothels, Turkish-baths, massage parlors, and laundry shops catering for American GIs.

Time and again, Parliamentarians attempting to safeguard the interests of civilian traders and businessmen have vociferously condemned the brazen-faced encroachments of the military, but in vain. The men in uniform rejoin that "free enterprise" is the supreme rule of the land and that anyone with enough money and drive can engage in profit-bringing activities. It's all very well, but how can anyone compete with the generals when they wield such power and influence, have access to military and economic secrets, hold control over US-aid goods, and, supreme argument, over the guns! Many wealthy businessmen who had gone south after 1954 have been driven to bankruptcy by competition from the khaki-clad entrepreneurs. One of them, a notoriously prosperous dealer in gold, jewelry and textiles in Hanoi, has taken his own life out of despair and impotent anger.

However, it would be unjust if we were to include in that rapacious gang the ordinary rank-and-file of the Saigon army. In the "free world," they are indeed the lowest-paid mercenaries. The salary of a PFC is 3,800 Saigon piastres; that of a non-com ranges from 5,000 to 8,000 piastres. In comparison, let us observe that a glass of beer costs 80 piastres; a bowl of soup, 100; a kilogram of pork, 600; an egg, 22; and a packet of cigarettes, 80. How could they ever hope to make ends meet? True, the Saigon administration has on a few rare occasions raised their salaries, but while prices ride away at a gallop, wages and salaries creep along at a snail's pace. A paratroop NCO with some education uses this mathematical parallel: "While prices increase by geometrical progression, salaries are raised only by arithmetical progression."

It is routine practice for a PFC or NCO back home after service hours to hastily swallow his bowl of rice, don civilian clothes and drive a motor-cycle taxi for some extra earnings to supplement the family income. The case has been reported of a sergeant living at Bay Hien crossroads who had been compelled by financial necessity to let his wife provide entertainment to sex-hungry GIs. She caught VD, the family was ruined by the costs of medical care, and the neighbours got wind of the matter. Finally the wife committed suicide by drowning and the sergeant, left with 6 young children to look after, was driven to near insanity.

Soldiers and non-coms with some special skill—signalmen, engineers, mechanics... — try to earn some extra money by working on evenings and Sundays repairing typewriters, radio and television sets, calculators, cars and motorcycles, etc. All have work very hard indeed if they are to feed their wives and children.

Among the junior officers, some succeed in getting rich through using their influence and power as battalion or regiment commanders. They grow up into wealthy big shots too. For them, their salaries only serve as pocket money. Their main income is drawn from elsewhere.

Let's listen to what Major Le Van Ngai, the commander of a 600-man battalion of the Fifth Infantry Division stationed at Lai Khe, has to say about his extra earnings: In normal times, when no operations are under way, the quarter-masters give him kickbacks of up to 100,000 Saigon piastres every month, from funds earmarked for supplies and maintenance. These earnings really shoot up when things get hotter on the battlefields. Soldiers die or desert, but their names remain on the company lists, and their salaries go to their company commanders, who send half of that windfall to Major Ngai. The latter's cornucopia also includes a fat percentage of the operational funs (combat rations, special expenses, etc.) and the war booty: pigs and chickens, articles of clothing, gold and jewels mercilessly stolen from the civilians. Meanwhile the battalion's rear-base hums with profitable activities: under the supervision of the Major's trusted lieutenants, military lorries are hired to private traders for the transport of goods, most often smuggled ones, or are used to ferry "surplus supplies": firewood, oil and lubricants, etc., to confidential middlemen. And so, after a mere two years as battalion commander, from a penniless captain, he has risen to be a millionaire-major, a faithful member of the *Khaki Party*.

His colleague, Major Huynh Cong Do, deputy chief of the 3rd district of Saigon city, has filled his pockets at a still greater speed, thanks to President Thieu's favour. Major Do's bonanza springs from many sources: one is the damages paid by the American embassy to Vietnamese civilians killed "by mistake or accident" by American bombs, shells, bullets, or military trucks. These damages amount to 34 dollars per victim, the price of 20 kilograms of pork, as bitterly observed by the Saigonese. Forty per cent of that money is pocketed by Sir deputy district-chief for the simple reason that "were it not for his intervention the Americans wouldn't have paid a cent!" Another Pactolus is the kickback from gambling-den owners, who will *ipso facto* benefit from police protection. Another mint of money: the junk yard at Long Binh, the great American logistical base. It's the biggest military refuse dump in Asia, sprawling over tens of hectares, a huge mountain of discarded jeeps, scout-cars and trucks, typewriters, air-conditioners, refrigerators, radio and guns, tin sheets, iron and copper wire, articles of clothing, blankets, shoes, belts, canteens, and what not! Tens, hundreds of tons of them. On orders from the American brigadier commanding the Long Binh base, that enormous mass of junk is handed over to Major Do, to be sold to the "district people, with priority to families with orphans and widows who are especially sympathetic to American and allied armies," at prices as low as one-tenth of those on the Saigon black market. But as soon as the goods are out of the stockade, Sir deputy district-chief hastens to put the "district people and families with widows and orphans" out of his mind. The merchandise is quickly sold out at the most profitable prices thanks to the efficient cooperation of the Major's henchmen.

Major Do's "extra earnings" have brought him several apartment buildings and luxurious villas, for rent and for use by his attractive young concubines, as well as big cars — American, French and Japanese — for ferrying his wives and children to seaside resorts on holidays...

In the reign of President Thieu, the great friend of the Americans, a princely life is the happy lot of the members of his party, the *Khaki Party*.

THANH NAM

(To be continued)

The bombing of Quang Tri

Typical case of US genocide

IN their predicament the US aggressors and their henchmen are stepping up the war of genocide by using large numbers of B.52 strategic bombers, tactical aircraft and warships in extermination attacks on many populous villages in the Mekong River delta and the plains of Central Viet Nam. Their attacks are concentrated on the newly liberated areas, especially the province of Quang Tri.

Quang Tri, the northernmost province of South Viet Nam, has an area of over 4,700 square kilometres and a population of about 280,000 living in 7 districts sub-dividing into 60 villages.

As early as in 1955, Quang Tri was the scene of many bloodbaths created by the US-puppets, among which the massacre in Huong Dien on July 8, 1955, which will be remembered for ever by the people in South Viet Nam and in the whole country.

After their arrival en masse in South Viet Nam, US Marines in 1965 levelled many populous areas in Con Tien, Doc Mieu, Dong Ha, Cua Viet, Ai Tu and La Vang for the construction of military posts and airstrips in the overall scheme of turning the province into a huge military complex for a "northward march."

In 1966, alongside the heavy reinforcement of the US and puppet forces, the enemy started building an electronic line and a string of military posts from Cua Viet in the east through to Khe Sanh in the west. At the same time, bloody raids and sweeps were conducted against urban areas and remote jungle regions. From 1966 to the end of 1967 in Gio Linh district, 2,000 people were slain by the US-puppets, 700 others wounded, and large numbers of others carried off to unknown places. In Hai Lang district, 3,000 villagers were killed or injured in the 1965 - 1969 period.

Along with "search and destroy" operations, B.52's and tactical aircraft conducted round-the-clock bombing raids or chemical sprays, causing great destruction in the province, from the coast in the east to border regions in the west.

Many villages and hamlets in the plains were devastated. From 1965 to 1969, some 300,000 bombs and shells were laid on Hai Lang district, which has a population of 80,000. From 1967 to 1970, B.52's made 120 sorties against Gio An, Trung Son, Trung Hai and Trung Giang villages in Gio Linh district. Trung Hai village was hit by over 90,000 bombs and cannon rounds in 1968 and the first six months of 1969. An area of 540 square kilometres in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts were completely ruined by noxious chemicals, and thousands of people were affected, many of them mortally (a good number have had nervous break-down ever since). Out of the 101 hamlets in Gio Linh district 96 have been razed by bulldozers. From 1968 to May 1970, US bulldozers levelled 50 of the 83 hamlets in Cam Lo district. As a consequence, 400 families were driven out of their homes, and 2,100 hectares of crops were wasted. These, however, are just a few instances of the innumerable crimes of the US-puppets in Quang Tri.

The population, determined to put a stop to the enemy's barbarities, have joined the liberation forces in rising up for the liberation of their land.

Nixon, stung to the quick, has hurriedly sent in more air and naval forces in a frantic escalation of the war to blot out the province. US air and naval forces have been mobilized to the highest level, with over 100 strategic aircraft and hundreds of tactical ones. All kinds of bombs — demolition bombs, napalm bombs, phosphorous bombs, gas bombs, thousand - pounders, Fat Alberts — have been used against the provincial capital, the various townlets, and other population centres. Everyday, B.52's made between 80 and 120 sorties (the peak in the Indochinese war in the 1968-1969 period) against the province. On June 19, 25 and 26, and on July 17, US strategic aircraft plastered the province with 8,250 tons of bombs. On the 19th century citadel, which has a superficies of less than 3 square kilometres, and the surroundings of the capital city, the enemy dropped as many as 4,000 bombs on the single day of July 4 (the tonnage is much greater than the daily average for the whole of South Viet Nam in the 1968-1969 period).

At the same time, US warships have kept the province under fire constantly, and each bombardment involves 12 or 16 units. From April 28 to May 8 and on July 2, around 50,000 cannon rounds were fired on Dong Ha and a number of places around Quang Tri town and north of the My Chanh River. Total destruction was caused to the girls' college, the Bo De school, the market place, a hospital, the Tinh Hoi and Ba Nam pagodas, the protestant church, the Thach Han and Tri Buu parish churches, etc. The enemy has levelled almost all the buildings in and outside the ancient citadel.

To cover his crimes and fool the world public Nixon claims that he is "winding down" the war. But the crimes the US has perpetrated in Quang Tri in the past months show that Nixon is organizing a new expeditionary army with the USAF and USN as the main forces, to intensify the war on a large scale for the extermination of the South Vietnamese people.

As the Foreign Ministry of the RSVN has pointed out in a statement on August 4, 1972, US imperialism, the biggest war criminal of the present-day world, must bear full responsibility for and all the consequences of the escalation of its war of genocide.

And reality in this battlefield has shown for many years now that US explosive can never bring the South Vietnamese people to their knees and will not save the US-puppets from fiasco.

South Viet Nam forestry after US bombing raids

Here and there...

*

Law suits à l'américaine

R.J. Dole, chairman of the National Committee of the Republican Party, *UPI* reported on August 28, has just requested the Committee of Action for a Fair Election to open an investigation of McGovern's comparison of Nixon with Hitler on three scores. He has also asked the Committee's chairman to serve the Democratic presidential hopeful an "official warning" and to use his authority as chairman to bring such foul political language to an end.

But the neutral body has immediately declared through its spokesman that it will in no way pass such a sentence. So the affair has been shelved, before it has even started.

The incident reminds us of other law suits just started or under way which have marked US political life these last few months: proceedings against Jane Fonda for having spoken over Hanoi Radio, against Ramsey Clark for having exposed US bombings of North Viet Nam's dykes, against Berrigan and other peace fighters for their anti-war attitude, against Ellsberg for having disclosed the "Pentagon Papers" on the Viet Nam war.

There have been other legal actions filed by the Democratic Party against its rival, the most attention arresting is the Watergate burglary and bugging case.

And others against Nixon by numerous personalities or organizations for his prosecution of the Viet Nam war in violation of the US Constitution.

A bumper crop for US justice in a presidential election year!

Which of the two?

But there remains a question to clinch: which, Nixon or Hitler, would take offence of the... er... "forced" parallel of McGovern?

Being no Solomon, this columnist would not venture a judgement thereon. I'd rather say both would be equally justified.

As regards Mr Nixon, it has been made abundantly clear in this column that he by far outwits the Führer in every respect: lethal weaponry, feats of ferocity, erasement of towns, mass massacres and what not. There is no need to dwell on his record. Consequently, Mr Nixon is entitled to feel hurt by the comparison and this explains the use of the word "foul" in reference to McGovern's language. He is of much greater stature than Hitler, isn't he?

As for the latter, I would not swear if he was still alive that he would not resent the comparison. He would not object to being matched with the US President in cruelty but he surely would to being described as a liar or a Tartuffe like Mr Nixon. A war criminal though he was, the Nuremberg Tribunal would not, I believe, rule out his plea.

Maybe it was the reason why the Committee of Action for a Fair Election has deemed it advisable to reject the complain of the Republican Party. To avoid every possible complication!

Genghis Khan?

In answer to a CBS interview William Douglas, US Supreme Justice has reiterated the charge that the Viet Nam war is anti-constitutional for the US Constitution provides that only the Congress has the right to declare war. It does not say the Congress "or the President", nor the Congress "or the Supreme Court." And the US history has fully confirmed it.

"I'm afraid as a result of the Viet Nam war," concluded Douglas, "that in the eyes of many people in the underdeveloped nations, we're the new Genghis Khan — a great destroyer".

Beware! Mr Nixon easily takes offence. You'll get into trouble if you now compare him to Genghis Khan. He'll prove that the Mongol conqueror is no match for him, for example as far as dupery is concerned.

HUONG NAM

Highway 13

Battle-count of 150 days and nights' stubborn and successful fighting

★ Enemy fortified defence structure North of Binh Long smashed ★ Strategic Highway 13 sealed off, increasing pressure on enemy just at Saigon's northern gate ★ Heavy blows at Saigon regular forces: 28,000 enemy troops wiped out ★ 3 task force units, 2 armoured regiments, 13 infantry, artillery and ranger battalions destroyed ★ 9th Task Force unit wholesale capitulation ★ 250 aircraft downed, 750 military vehicles and 220 artillery pieces seized or destroyed, 70 ammo and fuel dumps burnt down or blasted ★ 2 districts and nearly 30 villages completely liberated, tens of thousands of people up in arms to seize power and establish revolutionary administration.

SINCE April 1972, the armed forces and people on the Highway 13 front have kept up their offensives, and after 5 months' stubborn and successful fighting have destroyed an important amount of enemy manpower. The liberation fighters have pinned down many divisions of enemy troops, foiled all their counter-attacks, preserved and constantly broadened the vast liberated areas, and forced the enemy onto the defensive and inflicted on him heavy losses. With devastating opening assaults, the Binh Long PLAF shattered the enemy's strong defence line stretching over 60 miles along the Viet Nam-Cambodia border and running from 25 to 30 miles deep inside national territory along Highway 13, and made up of a series of heavily defended bases and outposts which had been painstakingly built up for years. Within a week, the PLAF destroyed or forced the surrender of 3 task force units and regiments of Saigon infantry and armour troops, and effectively assisted the local people in their uprising which resulted in the dismantlement of the whole of the enemy coercive machine and the complete liberation of Loc Ninh and Bu Dop districts.

Hard pressed, the enemy had to dispatch without delay the bulk of the 3rd Army Corps mobile force to the Highway 13 front, in an effort to prevent the fall of Hon Quan town and retake the Loc Ninh sector. The Liberation fighters pushed southward, knocked out Saigon 5th Infantry Division and 333rd Ranger group, cut the enemy supply lines on Highway 13, invested Hon Quan and isolated the defenders from the outside world.

Reduced to impotence, the 3rd Army Corps forces even faced annihilation. The US-Saigon had to commit to this battle zone all the forces they could rake up: the 15th Regiment of the 9th Division, the entire 21st Infantry Division, the 3rd Army Corps, the 9th Armoured Regiment and even 2 airborne brigades of the General Reserve. In an attempt to quickly ease off pressure on Hon Quan and reopen Highway 13, the US imperialists fielded a major part of their tactical and strategic air force in coordinated actions with their native mercenaries. With heavy reliance on US fire power and motivated by Thieu's 10 million-piastre reward, the 15th Regiment still failed to reach the town, while the 21st Division lost over 50% of its strength in a month. The 32nd Regiment of the said division was "resuscitated" twice, as its men put it. The 9th Armoured Regiment was struck off the roll call. For all his exertions the enemy still could not break through the patriots' steel ramparts on Highway 13. In the end, he had to fall back to the 4th Army Corps area, after having been beaten hollow.

Saigon paratroops changed their tactics. From the North, where they made a landing, they attempted a thrust southwards, but the route remained blocked. They were finally pulled out of this battlefield after serious losses.

The US-Saigon command then dispatched the entire 18th Infantry Division to Hon Quan to replace the exhausted 5th Division. The 21st Division operating on Highway 13 was replaced by the 25th. The adversary believed that in the 5th month of the fighting, the PLAF would not be strong enough to keep up their attacks. Their forces would accordingly mount counter-attacks to relieve Hon Quan town, reopen Highway 13, and eventually recapture Tech Nich base and the rural areas around the town. Once again, they were thwarted in their designs.

In early August, the PLAF not only inflicted heavy casualties on the 43rd and 52nd task forces, 18th Division, wiped out thousands of men of the 25th Division, preserved the liberated areas, and halted the advancing enemy troops south of the town, but also launched a new wave of violent onsets on the Forward Command of the Saigon 3rd Army Corps at Lai Khe, interdicted traffic on Highway 13 over a new portion to the South from Chon Thanh to Ben Cat, and knocked out the 51st Ranger Battalion involved in a road clearing operation.

The US-Saigon Command had to give up their attempt, pull out from a 12 mile-stretch of Highway 13 from South of the town to Northern Chon Thanh, and move the 25th Division further South for a link-up with the 333rd Ranger Task Force and the 5th Division in order to cope with the pressure from our armed forces and people now only at 25 miles from Saigon. On September 1, the 49th Task Force, 25th Division, were given a drubbing as soon as they reached Bau Bang. In a well-fought battle, the PLAF destroyed or decimated 2 enemy battalions, took hundreds of prisoners and seized hundreds of weapons of different types marking 150 days' fighting with dramatic successes.

According to preliminary reports, from April 4 to September 5, after 150 days and nights of relentless combat, the armed forces and people on the Highway 13 battlefront took a toll of 28,000 enemy troops, among them a US general and many other US and Saigon officers, wrote off the 52nd Task Force, the 1st and 9th Armoured Regiments, and 13 infantry, artillery and ranger battalions. The 9th Task Force surrendered in a body. The Liberation fighters knocked out the Saigon 5th Infantry Division, and inflicted heavy losses on the 21st and 18th Infantry Divisions, the 1st Airborne Brigade, the 9th Division 15th Regiment, the 6th Ranger Group and the 333rd Ranger Task Force.

Enemy material losses included 250 aircraft of different types shot down, 750 military vehicles (including over 220 tanks and armoured cars) and 220 heavy guns captured or wrecked, 70 ammo and fuel storages burned down or blown up, 226 transceivers destroyed or seized and 2,800 weapons of various types, including many artillery pieces and heavy mortars falling into PLAF hands.

Loc Ninh and Bu Dop districts and nearly 30 villages with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants along Highway 13, in the provinces of Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Thu Dau Mot were completely liberated. The enemy coercive machine at village, district and province levels was shattered by big chunks or disrupted. In most of the newly liberated villages, revolutionary administration has been established and the villagers are enthusiastically engaging in production and joining the armed forces in repelling enemy counter-attacks or inroads.

Thousands of puppet troops captured by PLAF at Loc Ninh

PLAF assaulted enemy military convoy on Highway 13

A steel rampart on Highway 13

UNIT H 150 days and nights' unflinching resistance on Highway 13 was an epic of heroic Eastern Nam Bo.

In the first days of April 1972, the group was credited with the wiping out of Saigon 52nd Multi-battalion Group, which contributed by tightening our stranglehold around Hon Quan and directly threatening the enemy defence around Saigon. Paratroopers were hurriedly transferred by the US-Saigon command from the Central Highlands and even the "para" battalion assigned to the protection of Thieu's "Independence" Palace and the 21st Infantry Division garrisoned in the Mekong Delta were sent to the rescue.

Thrusts were promptly directed by H Unit against Saigon 21st Division on its way to Hon Quan, badly mauling it. The enemy advance convoy was blocked while Saigon troops beleaguered further North were waiting impatiently for ammunition and food supplies. Taking advantage of the circumstances Sub-units 9 and 7 of H Unit launched repeated attacks and wiped out entire adverse columns. In a relatively short time, 1,000 troops of the 21st Division were killed, and many battalions and companies of the Saigon army destroyed or heavily decimated, dozens of military vehicles wrecked. Highway 13 was entirely sealed off. Under fire from Eastern Nam Bo artillery, the Hon Quan position shrank with every passing day. The enemy 5th Infantry Division, paratroops and rangers within and without the town were all frightened to death by our onslaughts. In a concerted action Sub-unit 8 of H Unit, together with a friendly outfit, made a violent and devastating assault on enemy battalion No. 8 which was severely battered, while its survivors jumping over barbed-wire fences took to their heels, abandoning the whole gun position.

Hon Quan became a festering sore and Highway 13 a real furnace for the US-Thieu command. Even by-paths cut by enemy tanks on both sides of the highway were soaked with enemy blood. Saigon troops were scared even by tree-bushes and earth-banks which they took for gun emplacements or ambush hideouts. Carpet bombing by B.52 planes were carried out, 7-ton blockbusters and thousands of gun shells poured on the lifeline.

But all this lethal rain could not dislodge H Unit. Other tactics were used to re-open traffic: "leap frogging," "shrinking into clusters" tactics were successively tried by paratroopers known for their "staggering punches," by men of the 21st Division notorious for their looting records in the West Nam Bo plains, and by rangers pirates. From Chon Thanh to Hon Quan, in May and June, heavy fighting took place in a cloud of rain and smokes. Sallies by enemy tanks were continually made while their infantrymen slipped and groped through the maze of our enclaves, now "leap frogging," now "assembling into clusters." Our troops never lost sight of the enemy, and hand-to-hand engagements often occurred. Saigon Regiment No. 32 was thrashed by H Unit which, by co-ordinating action with a friendly unit, also trounced Saigon Regiment No. 31. Saigon 21st Division had therefore to leave this "bloody" Highway 13, and the 25th Division had to follow suit.

In a frantic reaction, the enemy released on positions of H Unit thousands of tons of bombs and tens of thousands of shells. B.52s saturation-bombed dozens of times. On some days, 10,000 shells were fired. Bomb and shell craters overlapped. The soil was pulverized, men walked knee-deep in dust. H Unit nevertheless stood firm.

Realizing their inability to destroy our positions wholesale, the enemy now tried to tackle them separately. But each position again proved to be a steel rampart. Three enemy battalions took turns in harassing them day and night, but the enclave built by Liberation Company No. 11 remained unscathed. Our fighters fought the enemy with captured weapons and drew close to them. Our Company No. 6 held their ground despite innumerable bombings and shellings and attacks by enemy battalions.

Surprised and alarmed by such an unusual stamina, the US-Saigon command resorted to psywar ploys: their propaganda machine continually talked of "flag hoisting" on Highway 13, of "weakening the Viet Cong who have only 100 riflemen left," of "a forthcoming reopening of Highway 13," but the trick was too transparent to work.

For officers and men of H Unit, Highway 13 was a rampart symbolizing their resolve to fight for independence and freedom, their offensive spirit and revolutionary heroism. Each sub-unit projected a fine image of itself. Thus Sub-unit 8 became a steel bastion standing in the East and foiling all adverse manoeuvres, while Sub-unit 7 was an iron gate guarding the Western entrance. Sub-unit 9 was a versatile spear poised against the enemy wherever he was. Nguyen Van Ben, Pham Van Nhat, Pham Van Hoa, Long Xuan Niem, Tran Van Kiem, Le Ngoc Toan, Trinh Dao Hung, etc., all upheld the spirit of revolutionary offensive.

In 150 days and nights' relentless combat, all sub-units of H Unit coordinated action with other forces on the Highway 13 front and worked wonders.

All through the gruelling campaign, its officers and men never lost confidence in their victory, no matter how brutal the enemy methods.

For its exploits (see in current issue "Battle-count of 150 Days and Nights' Stubborn and Successful Fighting"), H Unit was awarded by the South Viet Nam PLAF Command two Liberation "Exploits" medals, and its Sub-units were also honoured.

DRVN Government fully supports the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam's correct stand

The DRVN Government September 14 made public a statement on the ending of the US war of aggression and re-establishment of peace in Viet Nam.

Voicing full support for the stand of the RSVN PRG expounded in the latter's September 11, 1972 statement, the DRVN Government's statement reads in full as follows:

ON September 11, 1972, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a statement on the ending of the US war of aggression and the restoration of peace in Viet Nam. The DRVN Government sees eye to eye with the RSVN PRG in its profound evaluation of the situation and in its correct stand on the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue as expounded in this important statement.

It is everybody's knowledge that for almost twenty years now the successive administrations in the United States, from Eisenhower to Nixon, have resorted to many strategies, which are all aimed at the invariable objective—the rigging up and maintenance of a puppet administration to use as a tool for the installation of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. Having failed in its use of the dictator Ngo Dinh Diem, the US turned to a "special war" strategy. After this strategy had gone bankrupt, the US sent its expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam to conduct a "local war." The "local war," too, went bankrupt in a humiliating manner, and the Nixon administration in its turn, tried to put into motion the "Vietnamization" policy to make Vietnamese fight Vietnamese and to pull US troops out while keeping the Saigon puppet administration in power. Now that the "Vietnamization" policy has failed to save the puppet administration, the Nixon administration has "re-Americanized" the war of aggression in Viet Nam by engaging US air and naval forces in a massive manner. It is thus clear that as long as the US obdurately seeks to retain the puppet administration, the US war in Viet Nam will be prolonged, stepped up and broadened, and US involvement in Viet Nam cannot be curtailed. The US, after each defeat, frenziedly commits ever more barbarous crimes in an attempt to cow the Vietnamese people. The Nixon administration has perpetrated crimes that were not yet contemplated by any of the previous administrations, and that by far surpassed those of the Hitlerite fascists in the past. By deploying a very large force of aircraft and warships, the Nixon administration has raised the war of genocide, biocide and ecocide in South Viet Nam to an unprecedented level of fierceness while, in blatant violation of the commitment made by the US in 1968, resuming on a large scale, the war of destruction on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, by conducting extermination attacks on cities, towns, and villages, destroying dykes and other hydraulic works, and laying waste to economic and cultural establishments of the Vietnamese people. The Nixon administration has gone as far as mining and blockading otherwise the ports, sea approaches and waterways of the DRVN. Most recently, President Nixon has even referred to 'the great power that could finish off North Viet Nam in an afternoon.' This sword rattling is an impudent challenge to morality and international law, an insolent provocation to the whole progressive mankind.

THE Vietnamese people have done no harm to the United States. The US has no right to cause trouble to Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people are fighting for the independence and freedom of their Fatherland. They are not to be intimidated by bombs and threats of the US. The American people and the world people as a whole will not allow the US aggressors act at will.

To sacrifice the honour, might and money of the US and the lives of US troops to the corrupt puppet administration and to madly perpetrate savage crimes against the people in the two parts of Viet Nam, crimes which are vehemently condemned by the whole human race and eternally cursed by history, are not a way to 'defend the honour' of the US, as often claimed by the Nixon administration.

But all the steps of war escalation the US has taken cannot change the situation in South Viet Nam. The bitter defeats of US imperialism in the policy of aggression and intervention it has been pursuing everywhere and right here, in Viet Nam, since World War II have proved that US dollars and explosive cannot save the traitors and fascists the US has imposed on the various nations.

Just like on the battlefield, the stand of the US at the negotiation table has always been to force the South Vietnamese people to accept the Saigon puppet administration as the only legal administration in South Viet Nam while denying the RSVN PRG and the People's Liberation Armed Forces. To negotiate with the intention of maintaining one party while negating the other is not the way to reach a peaceful solution. This is the path of war. It is clear to all that the Saigon puppet administration is a product and instrument of the US neo-colonialist policy, that it is collapsing, and owes its precarious existence solely to US bombs and shells. As for the RSVN PRG, the embodiment of the will of an entire nation fighting for independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for the cause of liberation of other nations, and for world peace, it has been consolidating with every passing day and enjoying a growing standing and prestige in the international arena. It is an illusion of the US to maintain the Saigon puppet administration and to negate the RSVN PRG. Such attempt will only cause the war to drag out and the US involvement in Viet Nam to go on indefinitely.

THE RSVN PRG's stand in negotiation is to put an end to the US war of aggression and settle the internal affairs of South Viet Nam on the basis of the equality of the parties in South Viet Nam and their mutual non-elimination. This is the way to even old scores, to realize national concord, to secure democratic rights to the South Vietnamese people and to provide the latter with an opportunity to exercise their right to choose for a political regime through genuinely free and democratic general elections.

This stand is logical, reasonable and fair. Only such a solution can put a stop to the war and restore peace in a permanent manner. The RSVN PRG has solemnly declared its readiness to come to an agreement with the US government that there will not be an imposition either of a communist regime regime or of a US-paid puppet administration in South Viet Nam, and that the South Vietnamese people are free to set up a provisional government of national concord that shall be dominated by neither side. This judicious stand and this attitude of good faith of the RSVN PRG has enjoyed the sympathy and support of broad sections of the world public. Let the US government give an answer to this proposal of the RSVN PRG, to see if it wants to carry on the war or to settle the Viet Nam issue peacefully. If the US government negotiates with other objectives than a peaceful solution to the VietNam issue in mind, the talks will come to a dead end, the war will drag on and the responsibility for this will rest entirely with the US government.

In full support of the just reasonable and logical stand of the RSVN PRG, the DRVN Government holds that if the US government really wants to stop the war so that all US troops and all captured American militarymen may soon go home, it must seriously meet the two requirements raised in the statement of September 11, 1972 of the RSVN PRG, to the effect that:

'1.— To respect the Vietnamese people's right to true independence and the South Vietnamese people's right to effective self-determination, stop the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, the bombing, mining and blockade of the DRVN, completely cease the "Vietnamization" policy, and all US military activities in South Viet Nam, rapidly and completely withdraw all US troops, advisors, military personnel, technical personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, liquidate the US military bases in South Viet Nam, end all US military involvement in Viet Nam, stop supporting the Nguyen Van Thieu stooge administration.

2.— A solution to the internal problem of South Viet Nam must proceed from the actual situation that there exist in South Viet Nam two administration, two armies and other political forces. It is necessary to achieve national concord, the sides in South Viet Nam must unite on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual non-elimination. Democratic freedoms must be guaranteed to the people: to this end, it is necessary to form in South Viet Nam a provisional government of national concord with three equal segments to take charge of the affairs in the period of transition and to organize truly free and democratic general elections.'

As long as the US government continues its attempt to maintain the Saigon puppet administration for the continuation of the 'Vietnamization' policy and the imposition of neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, the entire Vietnamese people, acting upon the last testament of their beloved President Ho Chi Minh, will resolutely persist in and step up their just fight, till complete victory is won.

THE DRVN Government and all the compatriots in the North warmly acclaim the very great victories of the compatriots and combatants in the blood-sealed South. These victories have further advanced the cause of liberation of South Viet Nam, and are a worthy contribution to the defence of the North, the great rear of the whole country. The twenty million people of North Viet Nam, under any circumstances, will overcome all hardships and accept all sacrifices to accomplish their duty to the great heroic front.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government appeal to the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, those of the other peace- and justice-loving countries, the American people, and the world people as a whole to struggle even more vigorously to force the Nixon administration to put an immediate end to its criminal war of aggression in Viet Nam, negotiate with seriousness and meet in a positive manner the two requirements the RSVN PRG has set in its statement of September 11, 1972 for the purpose of ending the war, restoring a lasting peace in Viet Nam and contributing to the safeguarding of world peace."

Mr Nixon's political insolvency

IN an interview granted to *US News and World Report* on December 12, 1971, Senator Mike Mansfield judiciously predicted that US economic and financial plight would be one of the two decisive issues in this year's presidential race, for, to his mind, when the people's pocket is hit, they 'll feel it at once. But that's not all. In this respect, Nixon's liabilities are far greater than his assets. His criticisms of the Democratic Administration and his promises in this field in 1968 are boomeranging on him, in 1972.

In Chicago on February 19, 1968, Nixon held the Johnson administration itself — its spending, responsible for the financial trouble facing the US, because, as he put it, the country was experiencing the highest interest rate in the country, the highest taxes in history and the highest cost of living in one generation. On April 20 of the same year he also declared in Minneapolis that the family budget was being squeezed out by the inflationary spending of the administration and the devaluation of the dollar. He solemnly promised to the American people many a time that he would bring them a new boom, an end to inflation and the elimination of war.

His pledges have not been honoured. In the end of term balance-sheet, the incumbent US President will have a lot of trouble settling his accounts with his fellow Americans. US present economic and financial posture is no better, and in many respects even worse, than in 1968.

In early 1969, Nixon called on the Americans to accept a certain degree of recession in production — i.e., an increase in the unemployment rate —, as a necessary anti-inflation remedy. But it eventually turned out that they have had to accept a worsening both in joblessness and in inflation. Between February 1969 and mid-1970, the latter's rate reached an all-time high of 6% and that of the former grew from 3.5% to 6.2% and so far, sadly enough, Mr Nixon has only been able to say, while bragging about his achievements in office, that the present levels of inflation and of the amount of idle manpower have not yet reached such marks. The three years old economic crisis begun in Autumn 1969 has become the longest and biggest since the 1929-1933 slump.

If 4 years ago on January 25, 1968 Nixon said in New York that for a prosperous and developed country (USA) a 50 billion-dollar budget deficit in more than 5 years was beyond doubt a thing that should not be done economically, he has for the last three years brought about a budget deficit twice as much and likely to be more serious. He was the first US President in 40 years to devaluate the dollar (December 1971), although previously, he had pledged his honour "to spare me the spectre of devaluation." He was likewise the first US President in 80 years to witness a gap in the balance of payments for two consecutive years. The US is at present no longer the capitalist world's creditor as it used to. It has had to confront economic competitors of growing strength in its own camp and to gradually abandon its unchallenged position it has secured after the Second World War.

The cause of US economic and financial ailment does not only lie in the fundamental contradictions of its capitalist economy. To a great extent, it is also due to the Nixon administration's unsound reactionary economic policy. Throughout his term of office, Nixon has made it clearer than ever that he and his party are the spokesman of US big business, chiefly of the arms-producing titans. While professing his intention to switch from a generation of confrontation to a generation of negotiation, he has upped US arms expenditures and stepped up US aggression, which has been so harmful to US economy. Continuously mounting spending on weaponry has been the main source of US severe budget deficits and of inflation generating an imbalance in the whole highly militarized US economy. In an article in the *New York Times* of June 2, 1972, former Secretary for Defence Clark Clifford pointed out that Mr Nixon's concept of peace is "more war in Viet Nam, more defence expenditures, a shaky economy and a lack of trust in government." Parallel to his peace at home prattle, the US Chief Executive has been pursuing an economic and financial policy which widens domestic and foreign dissensions, and which shifts the burden onto the US labouring masses and US foreign "allies," for the sake of US big business. On August 15, 1971, to brighten the economic picture for the election year, he clamped a check on wages and prices. In practice it was only the workers' earnings which were freezed, as the 2.5% limit for the rise of the prices of goods had long been exceeded.

Even without a price hike, Nixon's measures would bring the magnates, particularly the trusts, fat profits thanks to more efficient production. The growing discontent in the ranks of extreme rightwing unions like AFL and CIO is evidence enough. He is also responsible for US unilateral decision to impose non-convertibility of the dollar and 10% import surcharge, to force US political "allies" but economic rivals to revalue their currencies, in violation of US pledges and in order to make his economic and financial policy viable.

Remarkably enough, the kept-up arms race, huge defence spending which speeds up the militarization of economy take a lion's share of the budget and leaves little for civilian expenditures. In the current escalation in Viet Nam, since May 1972, the number of B.52s deployed has doubled and their sorties have reached 100 a day at 41,000 dollars each. Tactical bombers have increased threefold and their daily missions have shot up to 800 a day at the cost of 8,500 dollars each. In all, 10 millions dollars has been daily squandered on raids, a sum enough to support 2,500 US families for a year.

Nixon's foreign policy has shattered all hopes of bolstering up US economy in the last few years. It has met with mounting opposition from Americans who have been clamouring for a change to it. Such a feeling makes them very receptive to Senator McGovern's and the Democratic platform's plan for considerable slashes into extravagant military spending, a minimum income for every American, liquidation of unemployment, a higher US economic position in the world and more attention to the black and coloured Americans and immigrants.

IN his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention, Mr Nixon has flatly rejected such popular demands and pleaded for the continuation of a policy advantageous to US cannon dealers and detrimental to the masses. In other words he has made clear his intention to administer to the US nation more of the same which has brought upon it difficulty after difficulty, setback after setback in the economic, financial and other fields.

VAN DUC

in brief * in brief

MONGOLIA

At a meeting of Buddhists in Ulan Bator in solidarity with the peoples of Indochina, the Chairman of the Asian Buddhist Committee for Peace stated: "The Buddhists in Mongolia are highly indignant at the fact that the US aggressors are reducing millions and millions of honest peoples in the Indochinese countries to a miserable plight. The US aggressors, he said, are massacring human beings and destroying pagodas. We cannot sit idle before the sufferings that the aggressors are causing to our brothers. The whole progressive mankind including us Buddhists cannot tolerate the brutal war of aggression of the US aggressors."

CUBA

In a message to Prime Minister Fidel Castro, the officers and sailors of two Cuban ships which were discharging their international duty in Haiphong port city wrote: "All we can say to you is that we have seen with our own eyes the confirmation of our words: 'Mankind must be grateful to Viet Nam'... We think that our efforts are really insignificant compared with the sacrifice made by every man and woman of this courageous people... We are waiting for your order to go and fight in any part of the Vietnamese land or help with the repair of the dykes or limit the casualties among the extraordinary courageous Vietnamese people."

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

The Executive Committee of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam met on September 2 and 3, 1972 and issued a communiqué strongly condemning the war crimes of the US imperialists and calling on the world's peoples to increase their support for Viet Nam.

The Conference approved a program of actions, including the organization of a "Week of International Solidarity with the Peoples of Indochina" from October 15 to 22, 1972, the prevention of shipment of US arms and military equipment to Viet Nam, especially from the countries where the US had installed its military bases, and dispatch of shipments of medicaments and other necessary goods for the Vietnamese people, in defiance of the American blockade.

ITALY

Nearly sixty scientists of various countries in Europe and the United States including such renowned international men of science as H.B.G. Casimir, President of the European Association of European Physicists; Rosenfeld, Director of the magazine *Nuclear Physic*; G. Toraldo Di Francia, President of the Physicists' Association of Italy; G. Weiner, Director of the Institute of Physical History of New York... who attended a Summer clinic on the history of physics in Varenne have issued a statement.

The statement said in part:

"The application of science in modern society has been at the centre of our debates and we cannot overlook the professional participation of scientists in the waging of a war against the people of Viet Nam... We call for the immediate ending of the bombing of Viet Nam and the total withdrawal of American forces in order to safeguard the independence and freedom of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia."

Universal support for the Provisional Revolutionary Government Statement

THE September 11, 1972 Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the cessation of the US aggressive war and the restoration of peace in Viet Nam has had good repercussion throughout the world.

The Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic; the President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; the Head of State and Premier of the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia; Vice-Premiers, and Vice-Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of China, the G.D.R., Hungary, Mongolia, Albania and Romania; Foreign Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Cuba, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Poland; seyeral international organizations, political parties and national organizations, such as the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the Italian Communist Party, the Burmese Peace Committee... have accorded a hearty welcome to, and voiced full support for, this new important Statement. The progressive mankind has unanimously considered it as a "new advance of the RSVN desire and big effort for a correct political solution to the Viet Nam war on the basis of the Vietnamese people's interests" (Gerhard Weiss, Deputy-Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers), as a "clear and serious solution to end the US aggressive war and quickly restore a lasting peace in Viet Nam" (Peter Valyi, Vice-President of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government), as the "manifestation of the national concord spirit, in complete conformity with the actual situation in Viet Nam" (Penn Nouth, Premier of the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia), as the "extremely important and promising proposals" (K. Wickman, Swedish Foreign Minister). "These are very logical, reasonable and constructive proposals based on the practical situation of South Viet Nam at present. The US government must give a scrupulous response to them, settle at the same time both the military and political problems, and do away with Nguyen Van Thieu because the latter is the great obstacle to national concord, if the US truly wants to solve the Viet Nam problem" (K. Karoly, Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Peace Council).

President N. V. Podgorny declared:

"Now as in the past, the Soviet Union has been resolutely supporting the heroic Vietnamese in their struggle against US aggression. We back the Vietnamese friends' constructive proposals for a correct solution to the Viet Nam issue, especially the RSVN PRG September 11, 1972 Statement on the cessation of the US aggressive war, the restoration of peace in Viet Nam and the settlement of the South Viet Nam internal affairs in keeping with the actual situation."

Vice-Premier Li Sien-nien pointed out:

"On behalf of the Chinese Party, Government and people, I support the righteous stand raised in the RSVN PRG September 11, 1972 Statement... If the US government wants to end the Viet Nam war, it must immediately cease all its aggressive acts against North Viet Nam, promptly withdraw all the American and satellite troops and war material from South Viet Nam, dismantle all its military bases there, stop backing the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling administration and strictly respond to the RSVN PRG 7-point peace proposal as well as the two requirements in the September 11, 1972 Statement."

The IADL Statement stressed:

"These proposals (of the RSVN PRG on September 11) advanced in the framework of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, in furtherance of the principles of international law, constitute a new and signal proof of the PRG goodwill intended for a righteous way toward a fair solution to the war and capable to rule out all the Nixon administration's vicious pretexts to prolong its aggressive war. The Saigon regime's prompt rejection of the PRG proposals once again profoundly exposes its fear of outrage by public opinion."

Meanwhile, the press and radio of several countries have been introducing, publishing or broadcasting the full text of the PRG September 11, 1972 Statement, praising the Vietnamese people's goodwill for peace and baring the US reactionary ruling circles' stubborn and warlike attitude in refusing the PRG new proposals. Under such titles as "A New Constructive Initiative," "A New Opportunity for Peace in Viet Nam," "A Realistic Proposal"..., the world press pointed out: "Without any doubt, the PRG September 11, 1972 Statement reflects the South Vietnamese patriotic forces' goodwill and desire to break the present deadlock at the Paris talks" (Polish *Slowo Ludu*, Sept. 13), "This Statement brings into effect the sincere desire for peace, a legitimate peace" (Czechoslovak *Rude Pravo*, Sept. 14), "The confirmations in the PRG Statement which focuss the single-mindedness of the vast majority of the South Vietnamese is a new contribution to the ending of the Viet Nam war. This new initiative has been quickly accepted throughout the world. (*Romania Libera*, Sept. 14).

Even on the US paper *New York Times*, Tom Wicker wrote: Politically, the new peace proposal (of the RSVN PRG) may be regarded by American analysers as the old claims under new words. However, in black and white, this seems to be enough truthful, and has been outlined so clearly that Nixon cannot turn a blind eye to the aforesaid proposals... With these proposals, members of the Saigon government, except President Thieu, will take part, and it is all the more clearly that the scrapping of Thieu is a "splendid idea."

Public opinion also pointed out that "if the US government rejected this peace move, once again it will lay bare its nature and constitute a proof of the US policy's vile play (Bulgarian *Workers' Cause*, Sept. 14), and warned that "if the US fails to seize this key, it will surely meet with failure and will face ever more shameful isolation." (*Pathet Lao Radio*, Sept. 15).

Hostilities rekindled in Mideast by US imperialists and Israeli aggressors

AS reported by Western agencies, Israeli air force conducted massive attacks on Syria and Lebanon in the two straight days of September 8 and 9. The raiders plastered Palestinian refugees camps and population centres with bombs, machine gun fire and rockets, inflicting hundreds of casualties, mostly women, children and oldagers. According to *UPI*, Isreali troops, in unprecedented numbers, were massing along the borders of Syria and Lebanon in preparation for a new invasion.

The way the situation develops leaves no doubt as to the sinister design of the US imperialists and their gang, who capitalized on the Munich Olympics incident, which, as pointed out by *Radio Algiers*, had been staged by the Israeli and West German authorities in the context of their policy of hatred and revanchism. After causing the death of both Palestinian partisans and Israeli athletes, the Bonn authorities even threatened to crack down upon the 50,000 Arabs in West Germany, while in Tel Aviv Foreign Minister Abba Eban declared that peace was no more possible and that the top priority task of Israel was to crush all guerilla operations.

What deserved more attention was the activity in Washington, where Nixon, true to his nickname "Tricky Dick," complained that what was happening was the tragic senseless dashing of all hopes of mankind, and a tragedy for all peoples and nations in the world, while instructing Rogers to call for severe sanction to make it clear to the whole world that actions against the innocent are unacceptable. In a noisier move he ordered strict security precautions for Israeli, West German and Arab diplomatic missions and even for American Jews although the latter, according to him, are less likely to be assaulted than Israeli citizens. Yet, when the American delegate to the UN Security Council vetoed the Arab draft resolution condemning the piratic attacks by Israel and demanding the latter to put an end to its war-like acts, Nixon's attitude became clear.

Considering these psywar moves and war acts and putting two and two together one cannot be too naive as to see that the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors, with the collusion of the ruling circles in West Germany, have made white black in an attempt to whip up anti-Arab sentiments in the world, bring pressure to bear upon Arab countries, and finally destroy the Palestinian liberation movement, which has been enjoying the sympathy and support of the progressive people of the world for many years now. Nixon's despicable behaviour is no exception, since it is US traditional policy to use Israel as its agents in the Mideast, and since Nixon badly needs the votes of millions of American Jews in this election year.

No one, however, will fall a dupe to, or be scared by, the machinations of the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors. The pirates have been severely punished in Syria and Lebanon. On September 9, 3 of their planes, engaged in a criminal raid on Syria, were shot down. The enemy's divisive scheme has had no effect on Arab nations. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Union of Arab Emirates, the President of Lebanon, etc., have unanimously voiced their support for the Palestinians. On the other hand, they have stigmatized the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors, and called for united reaction on the part of all Arab countries.

As far as the Palestinian people are concerned, the enemy's attacks have only toughened their resolve and exasperated their hatred. Abu Djihad, a leading member of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, has declared recently: "By such threats and attacks, the Israeli aggressors attempt to weaken the fighting will of the Palestinian commandos who, however, have their combativity boosted by their indignation at the brutal Israeli raids. We have taken the Vietnamese as our model... We Palestinians are also more than ever resolved to keep up our fight against US imperialism and its aggressive agent Israel."

Wise with the experience they have gleaned from the struggle against the US imperialists and their henchmen here, the South Vietnamese people feel greatly indignant at the schemes and acts of the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors against the Palestinian people. In a message addressed to the Foreign Ministry of the Arab Republic of Syria on September 12, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Viet Nam described the Israeli aggressors' air strikes as "a brazen encroachment on the sovereignty and territory of the ARS, and a challenge to the world public."

The South Vietnamese people insist on an immediate end to such dastardly deeds, and reiterate their unswerving backing to the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people and the peoples of other Arab countries for their basic national rights, till complete victory.

DINH BA

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION